

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /152 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7450

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USUN NEW YORK 686

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10242

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, VN, VS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RECOGNITION OF "PRG" BY INDIA

REF: A) NEW DELHI 10308; B) SAIGON 10224; C) SAIGON 10225

1. SUMMARY: GVN IS CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT STATEMENT BY INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATING MOVEMENT TOWARD RECOGNITION OF "PRG". GVN APPRECIATES PROMPT REACTION BY EMBASSY NEW DELHI AND HOPES USG CAN PURSUE MATTER FURTHER WITH GOI. GVN PRESS SOPKESMAN HAS ISSUED STATEMENT ON THE MATTER. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER BAC RAISED QUESTION OF INDIAN MOVES TOWARD RECOGNITION OF "PRG" WITH CHARGE AUGUST 3, CITING INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT QUOTED PARA 1 REF A. BAC SAID PRESIDENT THIEU WAS VERY CONCERNED.

3. CHARGE THEREUPON PASSED BAC INFO IN REF A (EXCEPT FOR COMMENT). BAC WAS PLEASED EMBASSY NEW DELHI HAD ALREADY TAKEN
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ACTION DESCRIBED AND SAID HE WOULD INFORM PRESIDENT.

4. BAC REQUESTED THAT WE TAKE FURTHER STEPS WITH GOI, AND IN PARTICULAR ASK INDIANS TO NOT ACT IN A PRECIPITATE MANNER. BAC REPORTED THAT MFA HAD ALREADY CALLED IN ACTING INDIAN CG POPPEN TO EXPRESS CONCERN. BAC NOTED THAT IN SAME SPEECH MENTIONED ABOVE FOREIGN MINISTER SINGH ALSO HAD SPOKEN OF THE NEED TO IMPROVE RELATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

5. CHARGE RECALLED SUGGESTION MADE SOME TIME AGO TO MINISTER BAC, BASED ON CONCERN EXPRESSED BY EMBASSY NEW DELHI, THAT GVN PROMPTLY FIND ABLE REPLACEMENT FOR GVN CG IN NEW DELHI. BAC SAID HE PLANNED TO MAKE A DEFINITE RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

6. COMMENT: WE HOPE EMBASSY NEW DELHI CAN DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. BAC'S POINT ABOUT INDIAN DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US APPEARS FROM HERE TO HAVE SOME VALIDITY, I.E. THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE LITTLE BENEFIT FOR INDIANS IN MOVING TOWARD "PRG" AT A TIME WHEN THEY ARE SETTING THE STAGE FOR A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY. ALTHOUGH WE ARE OF COURSE OPPOSED TO RECOGNITION OF "PRG" AT ANY TIME, IT MIGHT BE POINTED OUT TO INDIANS THAT CURRENT SITUATION MAKES SUCH ACTION ESPECIALLY INAPPROPRIATE. COMMUNISTS HAVE COMPLETELY BROKEN OFF NEGOTIATIONS IN ALL THREE FORA SET UP BY PARIS AGREEMENT: TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC), FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (FPJMT), AND POLITICAL TALKS IN PARIS. AT THE SAME TIME THEY HAVE STEPPED UP MILITARY ACTIVITY. THUS RECOGNITION OF "PRG" BY INDIA AT PRESENT WOULD IMPLY INDIAN APPROVAL OF CURRENT COMMUNIST ACTIONS WHICH UNDERMINE PARIS AGREEMENT AND BLOCK ANY PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN SOUTH VIETNAM. EMBASSY NEW DELHI MIGHT FIND USEFUL INFORMATION IN REF B ON COMMUNIST BREAKOFF IN TPJMC AND FPJMT, AS WELL AS MATERIAL IN REF C ON COMMUNIST EFFORT TO AVOID IMPLEMENTATION OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM THROUGH ELECTIONS. END COMMENT.

7. MFA PRESS SPOKESMAN AUGUST 3 ISSUED STATEMENT ENERGETICALLY PROTESTING PROPOSED GOI-"PRG" TALKS AS "FLAGRANT INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOUTH VIETNAM". STATEMENT SAID SUCH ACTION DID NOT SERVE CAUSE OF PEACE IN SEA, AND ASSERTED GVN WOULD TAKE "FIRM MEASURES" IF GOI "ESTABLISHED OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH THE

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ORGANIZATION THAT CALLS ITSELF THE NLF". STATEMENT NOTED FURTHER GOI HAD PREVIOUSLY TAKEN UNFRIENDLY ACTIONS SUCH AS RAISING RELATIONS WITH DRV TO AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL WHILE NOT DOING SO WITH GVN, AND BY RECEIVING REPRESENTATIVES OF "NLF". STATEMENT CONCLUDED GOI WOULD BEAR ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORSENING OF GVN/GOI RELATIONS IF GOI ESTABLISHED OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH "SO-CALLED NLF".
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